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THREE CENTURIES

of

BIDDEFORD



An Historical Sketch

By

Estelle M. Tatterson

Sept. 1916



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Three centuries of Biddeford, an historical
sketch... n.p. [1916?]
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Three Centuries of Biddeford

By ESTELLE M. TATTERSON

DWELLERS on the Saco have reason to stop, in their busy lives, and review the years since courage, ambition and devotion made their beginnings. From very early times bold and sturdy navigators from Europe crossed the Atlantic on voyages, that for daring, hazard and adventure put the late feat of the German Deutschland completely in the shade, for they "charted unknown seas" in their search for territory and treasure for their rulers.

"Let us consider the days of old, the years of ancient times!"

The above is a liberal translation from the Psalmist and is most fitting for us, in these golden September days, three hundred years having passed since our most ancient times.

Denmark, Norway and England, France, Spain and Portugal vied with each other in their explorations and their explorers landed at various points from Labrador to Panama.

There are tales of the Dane and Norsemen on New England shores, the English Cabots, Gosnold, Weymouth and Martin Pring achieved glory and lasting fame. In 1603 Martin Pring of Bristol, England, sailed up the Saco for five miles, finding nothing to interest him or his men in the heavily wooded shores and seeing no living creature. This is the first record of the discovery of the Saco and this name should be remembered by all. In 1606 Champlain, map maker to the French King made a careful survey of the coast from Newfoundland to Cape Cod and after touching at various points east of here, sighted Wood Island, which he called the Isle of Bacchus from the profusion of grape vines, with which it was covered. He wrote an interesting account of the whole expedition and the following is a translation taken from his report.

"At high noon we weighed anchor and ran up a small river, barred at its mouth." In another place—"The right bank was low and sandy and the left shore high and rocky. This river is called by the natives Chouacoet," (pronounced Schwarco.) The same conditions exist today at Camp Ellis and the opposite shore. He also found an Indian Camp, with a stockade, on the high land partly within the limits of Jordan Farm and partly on the land owned by Arthur Andrews. Our translator gives the meaning of the word Saco in Indian, as "big pine", certainly appropriate to a river draining what was once the land of the great white pine.

The writer several years since received a number of letters from Prof. Ganong of Smith College on this subject, who sent translations from Champlain's report, also a copy of the Frenchman's map of the mouth of the river, as far up as the first Narrows or Ward's Point. This last is very accurate and the broad reach above Mrs. Charles Huff's place is indicated as well as the bend above the Tarbox landing.

But it remained for the English Richard Vines, the bold Captain sent over by Sir Ferdinando Gorges, to make the first settlement in our present limits and to stand at the head of our roll of honor. For ten years following Champlain's short

stay, the Saco remained unvisited. The great Plymouth Company, incorporated, (not to be confounded with the later colony of that name) attempted settlements at various points but without success and the members, as is customary in such cases, became discouraged and lost interest. Sir Ferdinando Gorges, one of the leaders of that company, realizing the great opportunities for trade and colonization, persevered and drew on his own private fortune for means to purchase a ship and equip an expedition for purposes of trade, as he publicly announced. But his private object and ambition was colonization and in 1616 he sent over a vessel with thirty-two men "hired at extreme rates," with Captain Richard Vines in command. His orders to Capt. Vines were to land in some suitable harbor and abide there through the fall and winter months, to test the climate for a permanent settlement.

Fancy in the beautiful September weather three hundred years ago, Vines was sailing along our shore looking for a harbor. See the little craft no bigger than a modern fishing schooner sighting Wood Island and feeling her way into the harbor at the Pool, so familiar to all.

We are told, that he passed through the narrow inlet and anchored inside safe from wind and wave. Then came the landing and search for a camping place. We cannot follow their experiences exactly, but tradition helping history tells us that at a sheltered spot above reach of tide water, just before the little bridge as we cross from the higher land on to the neck, where the cold winds were robbed of their sharp edge, Vines and his men erected six cabins and lived there through the winter of 1616 and 1617.

Several reasons are given for the name Winter Harbor borne so long by the Pool and the settlement there, but this seems the most reasonable one.

A monument now marks at least approximately the location selected by Vines and from this beginning

have grown our flourishing and prosperous twin cities of today.

Captain Vines arrived at what in these days we term the psychological moment, finding the Indians in trouble and suffering from two causes and in no disposition to resent any advances by himself and men. A severe epidemic of disease was prevalent and he was able to assist and succor them. It is said in spite of going freely among the sick, none of his party suffered from the contagion and the Indians became friendly. They also mourned the loss of their chief sachem, who had been slain with his family, by the Penobscot savages, the preceding year.

The Englishmen passed the winter fishing, trading for furs and learning much from observation as well as from the friendly natives, of the natural advantages of this section.

It is not unreasonable for us to fancy that they often took the Indian trail up to the Falls and thoroughly investigated the region, learning its possibilities and beauties.

In the spring of 1617, Vines returned in his vessel to England, reporting his experiences to Gorges, doubtless much to that worthy gentleman's satisfaction. The region was rich in fish and furs and there were tales of gold back in the mountains, for all explorers were looking for the precious metal. Captain Vines remained in the service of his patron for some years, making a number of voyages and always resorting to Winter Harbor.

In 1620, the Plymouth Company, which had received its charter from King James in 1606, was reorganized and reincorporated under the name of the Plymouth Council and on Feb. 1st., 1630 issued two grants—one, conveying to Richard Vines and John Oldham, land lying on the south side of the Saco river, four miles in breadth along the seawall and extending back in the country eight miles; the other assigned an equal amount of land on the opposite or north bank to Thomas Lewis and Richard Bonython. These grants had the condition attached, that their

leaders should take fifty persons to these parts, during the next seven years, live there and cultivate the land, at the same time protecting themselves against "the natives and other invaders."

On the 25th day of June 1630, Richard Vines took legal possession of the land granted to Oldham and himself on the southwest side of the river. There was some ceremony to this and several men, masters of vessels, in which the colonists came over and others, who in passing along the coast to the East had put in for a temporary stay, witnessed the act for Vines. The names of Isaac Allerton, Thomas Wiggen, Thomas Purchase are among them.

The next year June 28, 1631, Mr. Lewis and party arrived on the present Saco side and took possession of that grant.

Among the early settlers are names familiar to us all, Bonython or Boynton, Lewis, Williams, Davis, Smith, Parker, Andrews, Morgan, Page, Berry, Thomas Cole and many others. Most of the planters settled on the present Biddeford side of the river at the Pool and in the vicinity of Leighton's Point.

The tale of the early struggles and privations is most interesting. The employment of the colonists was agriculture, fishing and trading. There were several mechanics and a carpenter or two and the farmers were styled husbandmen. From Vines these obtained tracts of 100 acres, on leases at very low rents. Rumors and traditions of gold and silver in the hills at the head waters of the Saco continued and in 1660, William Phillips purchased the famous "three hills of rocks—as full of silver as the mountains of Peru"—from an Indian chief, but no silver was ever found.

The settlers lived well for the land was rich in flesh, fowl and fish and one chronicler says they sat a long time at meals, sometimes four times a day. No such privations in the matter of food supply troubled them as caused such suffering in the Pilgrim Colony at Plymouth. Capt. Vines himself was as much addicted

to the delights of the table as any of them and included in his deeds and leases mention of some esteemed delicacy.

In 1635, the Plymouth Council resigned their charter into the hands of the King, after granting a new patent to Gorges, including the "territory between the Pascataqua and Sagadahock." He proceeded to establish a government and sent over commissions to Vines, Bonython, Lewis and others as councillors. These men were convened at the home of Richard Bonython, on the Saco side of the river and held a sort of court for several days. Folsom in his "History of Saco and Biddeford gives an interesting account of this meeting and copies of petitions. In 1639, Gorges obtained a charter from the King, confirming the grant from the Council and named his possession from Portsmouth to the Kennebec, the "Province or Countie of Maine." The name was given in compliment to the Queen of England, daughter of Henry IV of France, who was connected with the province of Meyne or Maine in France.

Gorges' fortunes failed in England, he standing by the King against Parliament and in 1645, he was plundered and thrown into prison. The General Court here in protection to themselves made Richard Vines, Deputy Governor and he administered the affairs of the Province. Thursday, Nov. 20th., 1645 was appointed a public fast. Vines was in business, trading much with Indians and whites to the eastward and became involved with French settlers at Machias and St. John. The latter part of 1645 he removed to the Barbadoes, West Indies, having become the victim of financial embarrassment. Before leaving he sold his grant to Dr. Robert Child but the physician, who in the deed was styled a "Doctor of Physick" gave little attention to this region and never lived here.

Captain Vines never returned from the Barbadoes, but died there and his grave may be seen today. The monument at the Pool erected on the

sit of the first settlement was the gift of Mr. William Barry of Kennebunk, who while a visitor to these islands saw Vines' grave and became much interested in his discovery and colonization of Winter Harbor.

CHAPTER TWO.

Massachusetts Bay Claims Maine. Indian Troubles.

Political troubles were rife, Massachusetts Bay laid claim early to this Province and finally the majority of the inhabitants in 1653 submitted themselves and came under the protection of Massachusetts.

When Charles II came to the throne, Maine was made an independent province again but there was still trouble and in 1678 young Gorges, son of Sir Ferdinand sold Maine to Massachusetts for £1250 and she remained a part of the same until 1820.

During these years, colonists had established themselves along the river bank and many settled at the "Falls," the advantages of the present location of the two cities early presenting themselves. At that time the present Factory Island was known as Indian Island. With falls on both sides and calm water above, the island was a favorite resort of the natives.

All along the Pool road, we find in the old records, names still familiar to us and on that historic thoroughfare, one still hears the names of Fletcher, Haley, Dyer, Tarbox, Stackpole, Jordan, Hill and Gordon, and the city proper is filled with their descendants.

For half a century, after the first settlement at Winter Harbor, the colonists lived in comparative peace with the Indians. There were individual quarrels, but on the whole, the two races lived in amity. They traded manufactured goods and implements for furs and both sides early saw the advantages of peace and a free trade. However, our people were careful not to give the savages firearms and there were stringent

laws against the sale of guns to them or repairing the same. If the sale of guns or ammunition to the natives was proved, the punishment was death to the guilty party. In spite of this prohibition, many guns were obtained of the French in Canada and the settlements east of the Penobscot, the French always being allies and friends of the natives.

The history of the fort at the Pool is a tale many times told; even the school children know the story of the woman, at the Pool village, who saw a band of Indians crossing the Neck. She ran with her children down the bank to the Gut closely pursued by the savages and paddling across scrambled up the shore to the fort, with bullets whistling around the little group.

Thomas Haley, over confident in his friendship with the natives, remained in his house near the bridge against persuasion and warning and was killed as he sought his cows, which had strayed away; and other tales of escape and tragic death are told.

In 1675, several sailors from a vessel in the river near Cow Island were crossing in a small boat and passed a canoe containing the favorite squaw and infant son, of the famous Squando, chief of the Sokokis hitherto a warm friend of the whites.

For a thoughtless and cruel joke, a sailor seized the little one and tossed it into the water declaring that papooses like puppies could swim from birth. The child sank and the poor mother sprang overboard and diving, saved it and brought it to shore, but it died soon after. The haughty sachem never forgave this terrible insult and the uneasiness among his tribesmen caused by King Phillips' war in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, was simply magnified by this incident and a bloody Indian uprising followed. Saco, the settlement at the Falls was selected by Squando, as the spot, where the first blow should be struck.

In September 1675, John Bonython received a warning from a

friendly Indian and all the settlers with their families fled to the garrison house of Major Phillips, which stood near the river, not far from the site of the present Main street bridge on the Biddeford side. The houses on both banks were burned, the cattle killed and the savages attacked the garrison. A fierce battle waged for eighteen hours, twenty-two Indians were slain and Maj. Phillips with two other white men were wounded. The Indians withdrew after their repulse and Major Phillips sent to Winter Harbor for help as his ammunition was nearly gone and the people in a panic. No aid could be sent and Phillips with the entire body of men, women and children removed to the fort at the Pool. His garrison at the Falls was burned and everything at the settlement destroyed. All the houses on the Pool Road were burned and some of the people killed. This war lasted for three years, save in the winter months when hostilities ceased. It is stated, that at this time 60 out of every 100 white persons, living between Falmouth now Portland and Portsmouth were slain.

From 1689 to 1763 France and England were continually at war and this caused great danger and distress to the New England colonists for the French and Indians, at all periods of active hostility between the nations, descended on the English in force, killing and carrying captive wherever they could.

The first struggle began in 1689 and continued nearly 10 years and was called King William's war. This town (both sides were Saco) was defended by two forts, one at the Pool, commanded by Capt. John Hill, whose father settled in 1653 at the mouth of the Saco and gave his name to Hill's Beach. The other was the Stone Fort, on high ground, in the present yard of the Laconia Mills. This was built in 1696 by Major Francis Hooke and Capt. Hill. A tablet on the wall of the mill on Main street nearly at the top of the hill commemorates this and was placed here by the D. A. R.

chapter.

Beside these defences, there were several garrison houses on both sides of the river. They were wooden houses built of massive timbers, hand hewn, commonly having flankers or wings and furnished with loop holes. There was one not far from the Morrill school, one near Ferry Lane and another, the Stackpole garrison house, where the house at Jordan Farm now stands. The eastern end of the house contains some of the original timbers of the old garrison house and in the garret floor may be seen the heavy planks, with marks of the axe and with the seams calked with oakum, like the deck of a ship. This was the roof of the garrison and was of heavy green timber, hard to set on fire, in case of attack and on this a small gun was mounted. An old stone wall, on one side of a lane leading to the house is said to be part of the stockade that surrounded it, but this cannot be verified.

On the Saco side near the York Bank stood the Browne garrison house and on the river about two miles from the mouth, the Scamman garrison.

Although the inhabitants feared the worst, at the outbreak of hostilities, they did not suffer as much, as in 1675. There was no such determined attempt to destroy the town as Squando had made a dozen or more years before. However many stories might be told of events and happenings to the colonists. One of the best known and most authentic is the tale of the Scamman Mug.

Down on the Saco side of the river not far from the old ferry lived the family of Capt. Humphrey Scamman, the Ferryman. Folsom, the historian had the story, from a great grand daughter of Mr. Scamman and it runs something in this way. One day, the youngest son, Samuel was sent by his mother with a mug of beer to his father and brother, who were at work in the marsh, some distance below the house. He had not gone far, when he saw a number of Indians and ran back to tell his

mother. He wanted at once to bar the door and windows, but his mother prevented, telling him that their only chance for safety was to appear unafraid and to let them enter.

When they came, the savages inquired for her husband and she refused to tell them where he was working. But they promised if she would consent, the whole family would be taken alive and unharmed. So the poor woman told them, where he could be found and the entire family became captives. The savages destroyed much of the furniture, emptying the feather beds and carrying away the sacks or ticking, and left the premises with their prisoners.

A boy named Robinson, who had been sent for a team was returning and saw them in time to escape. Jumping on a horse, he rode to Gray's Point at the brickyard, swam the horse to Cow Island, then much larger and wooded and crossing to the other side, reached the fort and gave the alarm.

The Indians knowing the men were in readiness, decided not to attack, but left for Canada with the Scammans and other captives. A year later, peace having been declared, the Scammans were released and came back to find their home standing, the family cat on the doorstep and the beer mug on the dresser where the boy Samuel had left it.

This mug is now in the possession of descendants and may be seen at the Moody house on Cross street, Saco.

In 1698 there was peace for a time and a treaty was made with the Indians. But this was of short duration for as soon as Queen Anne ascended the English throne in 1702 war began again. The garrison at Winter Harbor and the stone fort at the Falls were besieged. The fort held out but lost 11 men killed and 24 captured. In 1707 there was an engagement at Winter Harbor between two small vessels manned by eight men and a boy and a fleet of 50 canoes and 150 Indians. Three hours the fight lasted and the savages withdrew, the settlers only losing

one man. In 1708 the men of the Stone Fort were transferred to Fort Mary and that was made the principal defense of the town. During the next four or five years there were several attacks on the fort and settlement and a number were killed and taken prisoners. In 1713 the savages sought peace themselves and gradually the settlers returned to their deserted homes and fields and took up their customary avocations.

The town once more began to thrive and prosper like the other parts of New England, but the French always jealous of the growth of the English colonies, privately encouraged the depredations of the Indians on their English neighbors. Roving bands kept the people constantly in a state of apprehension and in 1723 the garrisons were reinforced.

The name Westbrook given to a stream and locality here was in honor of Col. Thomas Westbrook, who was appointed to command of the forces in Maine in the year 1723. He came to Winter Harbor, met the leading men, supplied the garrison with provisions and left Capt. Ward instructions of various kinds. In his journal he speaks of visiting the garrison houses on both sides of the river and posting men at Hill's 3, Stackpole's (Jordan Farm) 4, Tarbox's 4, Dyer's 3, Capt. Sharp's 3 and John Brown's 4.

In 1726 quiet was again restored and by the terms of the treaty, a large trading post, well fortified, was erected at Union Falls, about nine miles up the river from the settlement at the Saco Falls, and a sergeant and ten men were stationed there to protect all parties. The last attack of consequence was in 1746 and after that Biddeford and Saco or Pepperellboro enjoyed peace and tranquillity until the Revolution.

CHAPTER THREE

Town Changes Its Name

During these years there had been a change in the administration of

town affairs and even in the name. Saco, it will be remembered was the first name given to the settlement on both sides of the river. The inhabitants late in 1718 held their last town meeting of the old town of Saco at the house of John Stackpole, when Ebenezer Hill, who lived near Ferry Lane, Scamman and Stimpson were chosen selectmen.

On a half sheet of paper, in the York Institute is a copy of a petition drawn up at that time for the reorganization of the town. It is impossible to include this and other interesting old documents but it closes with the request—"and that the Name thereof be Biddeford". This was granted and the name has belonged to this side of the Saco ever since. It is taken from a town in Devonshire, England, from which some of the settlers came.

About this time the Pepperell name came to stay also and Sir William Pepperell of Kittery became a great land holder on the northeast side of the river. He was a successful merchant and owned 5500 acres in the present city of Saco and in 1762 the name of Pepperellborough was given to that side of the river and the name of Saco was given up for a time but was again taken in 1805, the name Pepperell not being in such favor as formerly, the baronet having during the Revolution thrown his influence and money on the side of the King.

The first town meeting under the name of Biddeford was held in March 1719, Benj. Haley, Ebenezer Hill and H. Scamman being chosen selectmen.

Besides the Indian troubles, the most important matter between 1725 and 1760 was the building of the first or great "Lottery Bridge."

Of course in very early times, here as in all settlements, there were no highways. Whenever the people could use boats, they did so, and the Saco river was an easy way of going from Winter Harbor to the "Falls." In passing to the East or West settlements along the shore, wherever there was a stretch of beach, it made

easy traveling and for the rest, Indian paths through the woods were used or the settlers blazed trails for themselves. The "old Post Road from the Maine towns to Boston was along the shore and here and there, at the present time, one finds traces of old roads, which are said to be parts of the "King's Highway". Over the hill opposite Camp Ellis can be traced a bit of this old road leading from the first ferry and at Fortune's Rocks along the sea wall, past the old bowling alley, up the hill past the hotel and across to "Little River" is another strip of roadway, which is said to be a part of this old Post Road.

For over 140 years there was no bridge across the Saco, but a number of ferries existed and the ferrymen were important personages in the community. The first men to operate ferries were Thomas Haley and Henry Wadlock as early as 1654. There was another "Ferry" near the Narrows at Ward's Pond kept by Humphrey Scamman, who lived on the opposite side and in 1750 the first ferry between the present cities was below the Falls and Elisha Allen was ferryman.

In 1687 the old Indian trail up the southwest bank was made "King's Highway" and the General Court ordered it should be laid out and fenced, at the charge of the town. January 11, 1758, the General Court passed the following Act:

"An Act for raising the Sum of One thousand and two hundred pounds, by lottery, for building and maintaining a bridge over Saco and Presumpscot Rivers, in the county of York."

The reasons for this are cited in a preamble and sections first and second of the Act follow but occupy too much space to be printed here. Seven men's names are given from here and the Presumpscot region, one of whom Rishworth Jordan afterward officially signed the lottery ticket for the bridge across the Saco.

The drawing was advertised in the Boston Gazette to occur first at York in May, 1759. The tickets were \$2

and the highest prize amounted to \$1,000. Several drawings followed and finally the bridge was paid for, it having been built in 1760. It crossed from Factory or Indian Island to Saco, just above the present Cataract Bridge, and at a different angle. In 1767 Col. Thomas Cutts, Dea. Amos Chase, Thomas Gilpatrick and Benj. Nason built a bridge from the Island to the Biddeford side which was a toll bridge. The writer has one of the original lottery tickets numbered "1382—drawing D" which was found in the old house occupied at the time of the drawing by Mr. Jordan. He afterward was Judge Jordan, his commission as Justice signed by John Hancock and Samuel Adams being found in an old trunk at Jordan Farm, with other papers including the lottery tickets.

The famous Lottery Bridge was carried away by a freshet in 1785 and was later rebuilt on nearly the same spot, by Col. Cutts with assistance from the town. This was free to the townspeople but toll was taken from strangers.

Other roads and bridges followed and today Biddeford is making a good record for herself in the matter of good streets and highways, expending much money every year in that direction.

As before stated the first recorded town meeting in Biddeford was held in March, 1719. In 1730 it became a town by itself and grew and prospered under town government. Saco was incorporated as Pepperellborough in 1762 and the name retained till 1805, when it was legally changed to Saco.

From 1730 to 1788 either Capt. Samuel Jordan or his son Rishworth were members of the board of selectmen and the two men held office of Town Clerk from 1734 to 1780, so it can be seen that the Rev. Robert's descendants kept up the prestige of the name and Judge Rishworth's brothers, Samuel and Tristram, who early moved to Saco were likewise honored by being placed in high positions in the town government.

Folsom says that "great unanimity

prevailed in both towns" previous to and at the time of the Revolution. The leading men, among them the noted James Sullivan "defended to the fullest extent the measures taken by the provincial congress, cutting off all intercourse with Great Britain." On the 30th of July, 1774, at the mass meeting of the inhabitants of Biddeford there were passed some very strong and stormy resolutions and at a subsequent meeting, Dec. 22nd., 1774 a Committee of Safety was chosen and money voted for defence. Train bands or militia companies were formed, armed and equipped and our people made ready to defend their principles and their homes.

James Sullivan represented the town in the Provincial Congress until 1776, when he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court and removed to Massachusetts. All the leading men supported the great Cause, the Emerys, Tarboxes, Jordans, Scammans, Cutts, Hoopers, Hills, Chases, Dyers and Gordons and some one has written, that there were only three Tories or Loyalists and the names of those misguided men will be omitted from this chronicle.

Biddeford and Saco did their part in the Revolution nobly and it is said that "no towns in this quarter contributed more liberally" in respect to men and provisions than these. Folsom pays tribute to officers and men individually and his record forms most interesting reading. A number were in the Battle of Bunker Hill and other noted engagements. Several privateers were fitted out from the river and were more or less successful. The only real fighting in this immediate vicinity was a brisk skirmish at Cape Porpoise in August, 1782, when an English brig and schooner sailed into that harbor and captured an American schooner and a sloop. The inhabitants rallied and put up a stiff fight losing only one man, but the British ships got away.

Judge George Thacher, from whom Hotel Thacher received its name succeeded James Sullivan in 1782 as

simply the Hon. George Thacher. He was chosen a delegate to Congress by the Massachusetts Legislature before the adoption of the Federal Constitution and afterward elected every year by the people to fill the same office until 1801, when he resigned to accept the appointment of associate justice, in the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. All records say of him that "he was a faithful and upright public servant", and his standing as an able jurist and lawyer was very high. When Maine separated from Massachusetts in 1820 he removed to Newburyport and in January, 1824, resigned his office but died the following April.

Hon. Prentiss Mellen, at one time of Maine came to Biddeford in July, 1792. He lived here until 1806, then moved to Portland. Hon. Samuel Hubbard and Hon. Wm. Pitt Preble, afterward minister to the Netherlands were other lawyers of distinction, who made their homes in Biddeford for a time and the Hon. Cyrus King was the first regular attorney in Saco.

Among the men who left an honored name behind them was Abel Lawrence Pierson, a graduate of Harvard in 1812, familiarly called Squire Pierson. Before his time came Jeremiah Hill, a college educated man, for a time a merchant and through life an active, useful and prominent citizen. He died in 1820 and tradition has it that he was once tried for heresy.

In the first 200 years of our history no men occupied higher positions in the community than did the clergy. Throughout New England they were leaders of men, mentally, morally and socially as well as spiritually.

Richard Vines and his settlers were not Puritans nor like the Pilgrims but they were of the Church of England or what is known today as the Episcopalian faith and they early sought for a clergyman of the established church to minister to them. In 1637 Rev. Richard Gibson came to Richmond's Island, where there was a trading post and flour-

ishing settlement and became the pastor, not only of that place, but also held services at Winter Harbor or the Pool. The Puritans in Massachusetts Bay took exception to this and made much trouble, finally arresting him, but on his promising to leave the country, they released him and he returned to England after a stay here of about three years.

His successor was the Rev. Robert Jordan, who came to this country in 1640. He was made of sterner stuff and his many descendants in Biddeford and Saco may well take pride in their great ancestor.

He came to Richmond Island, where John Winter as agent for Trelawney was accumulating land and wealth through trade in furs and fish and soon married Sarah, only daughter of Winter. The latter having died, Jordan, through his wife became possessed of much land and acquiring more, at one time owned a great part of the territory between Cape Elizabeth and the Saco. A writer says of him—"Jordan remained at the post of duty and never relinquished his stand as a Churchman nor his professional character."

He was also arrested and jailed in Boston on account of his ministrations and yet he continued to hold service at both places, Richmond Island and Winter Harbor, to marry and baptize for some time after Maine came under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts.

An interesting item of the accounts at the Winter Harbor settlement is the list of subscriptions for the minister's salary for one year to be paid quarterly. It amounted to 31 pounds and 15 shillings, Richard Vines giving three pounds.

In 1658, the Commissioners for Massachusetts signed the "Articles of Toleration," upon which Jordan and Henry Jocelyn of Scarborough had insisted.

Mr. Jordan with his large family escaped during the dreadful Indian massacres of 1675 to Portsmouth and died there in 1679. Later when peace prevailed his sons and daughters came back and lived upon the

lands of their father.

The baptismal font used by him is now in Portland at the rooms of the Maine Historical Society. After his ministrations ceased many of the older settlers having died or left the place and new ones coming in being Congregationalists, that denomination became the prevailing one and there was no Episcopal church until the forming of Trinity Parish in Saco, March 20, 1827.

The records of any church building are extremely vague, though there is a tradition, that such an edifice existed somewhere in Lower Biddeford. The first Puritan minister to preach in Maine was Rev. Thomas Jenner, who came to Saco as the town was then called in 1640 and remained till 1646. For sometime after this there was no settled Puritan minister in the town, though a layman Robert Booth, who seemed to be a very versatile man and a gentleman of parts added preaching to his many accomplishments.

It is difficult to find any connected account or much information concerning church matters here from this time to 1718, when the reorganization of the town, under the name of Biddeford took place.

In 1719, the selectmen of the town were empowered by a vote of the town to exchange town land for a lot owned by Benjamin Haley "for a meeting house and a burying place and a sufficient highway to the ministerial lot." No one seems to know the exact location of the church but it was somewhere between the old burying ground and Ferry Lane it is said. The dimensions of this meeting house were 35 feet long by 30 in breadth. This building was in existence in 1727 as the prices of the pews and allotments of the same were decided by vote in June of that year.

The first record of a duly organized Congregational church was in 1730 just previous to the ordination of the Rev. Samuel Willard, who was voted a salary of 112 pounds and the stranger's contribution."

The members of this early church

are Capt. Samuel Jordan, grandson of Robert, who was then living in a house built by him in 1717 back of Fort Hill and now known as the "old Goldthwaite house," John Gray, Humphrey Scamman, Ebenezer Hill, John Sharp, Pendleton Fletcher, Benjamin Haley, Thomas Gilpatrick, Samuel Hinckley, Benjamin Hilton, John Tarr, Robert Whipple and Mark Shepherd. Mr. Willard died much lamented in 1741 and then came one, who was destined to be a power here for many years, the Rev. Moses Morrill. He was very young, only a little over 20 years of age but exceedingly able and of a very forceful character. A history of his pastorate of over 30 years would be a story of the town during that time. It was while he was pastor that the old church on the Pool Road for many years, known as the First Congregational Church of Biddeford was built.

In 1752, the town voted at the March meeting to erect a new meeting house on the land of Matthew Patten, to which 30 persons living on the Saco side objected.

It had a seating capacity of 800, was two stories high, with galleries and a sounding board, the regular model of old New England meeting houses. The story is told that a chandelier sent to this Biddeford church from Biddeford in Old England was somehow detained in Boston and never reached its destination. The church was changed somewhat a number of years since and sad to say modernized in several respects.

This church was consequently built by subscription of people living on the Biddeford shore. Mr. Morrill was a remarkable man of an unusually fine mind and thoroughly well educated, a graduate of Harvard, at the age of fifteen years. One writer says he also "ranked high as a statesman" and he certainly was a power at the breaking out of the Revolution, being very strong on the side of the colonies.

He married in the early part of his ministry, Hannah, daughter of

Captain Samuel Jordan, then living at Jordan Farm, which since 1740 has been in the hands of Jordans and their descendants. Mr. Morrill died in 1778 and left a name which is honored to this day.

The first church edifice erected within our present city limits was on the spot now occupied by the Second Congregational Society.

In 1797 a parish called the "Second Religious Society in Biddeford" was incorporated on "professedly liberal principles." The meeting house was built at that time and the first regular pastor installed was Rev. John Turner, who remained until 1817. In 1823, the Rev. Thomas Tracy from Cambridge, came to Biddeford and was so pleasing to the society that he was installed here in 1824.

In 1825, General Lafayette our guest, in passing through Saco and Biddeford attended service at this church on Sunday and heard Mr. Tracy preach. About this time there was a division in the church, the Saco members objecting to coming across the river and many of them being Unitarian in thought and belief, those of that faith in the two towns formed the Unitarian Parish calling it the "Second Church of Saco" and erected the fine building now occupied by that society. The members were drawn from the Congregational churches on both sides of the river and Rev. Mr. Tracy became their pastor. About 1851 or 1852 the Second Congregational church having outgrown its quarters, a new edifice was erected, which is now standing and the old building was sold to the Free Baptist Society and moved to its present site on Jefferson street. Many are now living, who recall the White Church on the hill before it was repaired and somewhat remodeled in 1870. In 1857 another Congregational parish was organized and in 1863 the Pavilion church was erected and occupied by this society. For many years the two societies flourished, but as the industries of the town enlarged and increased, most of the people coming in

to swell the population were of other faiths and denominations and now there is but the one active Congregational church, the old "White Church" on the hill, the Pavilion Church becoming the McArthur Library.

At the time of the building of the "Lower Meeting House" on the Pool Road which was finally completed in 1759, the Saco people who desired a church on their side of the river set about building one on the land granted by Sir William Pepperell. It was begun and the town was asked to finish it, which it voted to do but later rescinded the vote. The Saco church was completed in 1757 and stood a few rods below the present Unitarian Church. This was the First Parish Congregational Church of Saco, now worshipping on Main street.

It is of interest to mention a few facts concerning the other religious societies, that appear in the old histories. In 1782, a few converts were made in North Saco to the religious belief of the Free Baptists and in 1808 a church of 85 members was formed and in 1809 a building was erected called commonly the "Heath Meeting House" and Elder George Parcher for many years presided over the same. The first Calvinist Baptist Society and the first Methodist parish here were both in Saco and in 1827 an Episcopalian Society, Trinity Parish was formed and a church erected, which Folsom calls a fine edifice and cost \$4,500.

The first Methodist church was situated at the corner of Alfred and Bacon streets and was built in 1847 and finished in 41 days. It stood on the same lot, where the new Central theatre is erected, the old building having been used as a furniture store for many years. The present edifice standing on the corner of Foss and Pool streets was built in 1870. The small church below Ferry Lane, also a Methodist church was erected in 1836. It is in good repair now and used for services.

The First Baptist church was organized July 16, 1852; reorganized

Aug. 10, 1852, with 16 members. Services were first held in Beethoven hall then changed to Central hall. Rev. Austin Robbins was the first pastor. The church was built in 1855, dedicatory services being held Sept. 12. The church was thoroughly repaired in 1895. The 50th anniversary was observed Oct. 15, 1902, with appropriate services. Samuel Pillsbury, one of the first deacons of the church was church clerk for 35 years.

The first Episcopalian church in Biddeford, Christ church, on Bacon street was built in 1869 and Rev. William Alger was the first regular pastor. The present church property is on land formerly owned by the Simon Newcomb estate, lying between South and Crescent streets and the Bacon street building has been converted into a Hebrew Synagogue.

The Second Advent chapel on Hill street was built over 50 years ago, but the exact year could not be ascertained.

The First Universalist Society of Saco and Biddeford was also formed in 1827, with 31 members and has gradually grown into the present flourishing society with a fine church building erected about 1870.

The first site for a Roman Catholic Chapel was purchased in Saco, on the corner of Elm and North streets and held in trust by the Bishop of Boston.

A long article could be written on the growth of the Catholic Churches alone but lack of space forbids and it is evident to all, who contemplate the three spacious and costly buildings of St. Mary's, St. Joseph's and St. Andre's with their accompanying parsonages, schools and convents, and the new parish of the Holy Trinity just organized in Saco.

St. Mary's Catholic church was erected in 1855, to meet the requirements of the rapidly increasing population of that faith and St. Joseph's the first French church, an immense building was begun May 15th, 1870 and finished a year later. This was rendered necessary by the

great influx of French Catholics. St. Mary's being unable to accommodate them. A few years since another French church became necessary and St. Andre's was erected in the lower part of the city.

As new nationalities become part of our municipality and make homes for themselves, they desire rightfully to practice their respective religious observances and rites and so we have the Hebrew Synagogue and a Greek Catholic Society with its attendant priest. Verily we have in abundance religious privileges and freedom to worship God.

CHAPTER FOUR

The School Master Arrives

In the old colony days, next to the church was found the school and some means of education was early provided. The first statement found in the old town records is, that in 1732, the town voted that Mr. John Gordon prefer a petition, for the inhabitants, to the General Court, concerning a tax on unoccupied lands for the payment of a school master and the building of a minister's home. The law of the Province at that time was, that every town containing "fifty householders or upwards" should be constantly provided with a school master to teach children and youth to read and write.

In 1730 a Mr. Stackpole was appointed to hire a school master at a salary not exceeding 60 pounds per annum and engaged one John Frost. In 1735 the town engaged Mr. Isaac Townsend, as school master and for the next century the records show nothing for Biddeford, though instruction must have kept pace with other things, as the town grew and prospered. In 1830, "the amount of school money raised in Biddeford annually is about \$1200, though the sum required by law is only \$700. A grammar school is supported for the greater part of the year near the Falls and the remainder of the money is distributed among ten classes or districts." At that time, there

were two school buildings in the present city limits, known as the Upper and Lower School houses, the former near the junction of Pearl and Lincoln streets and the latter on Emery street. During the next fifteen years, a number of school buildings were erected, the brick school on Sullivan street in 1846 and Spruce street school in 1847. In 1848, the first High school was established in the brick building on Washington street, erected that year and William K. Vail was principal, but the man whose name as High School principal is still mentioned with honor and reverence is that of Horace Piper who was principal for a long time. Miss Elizabeth L. P. Adams in 1852 was granted the first diploma. This estimable and gifted lady afterward became Mrs. James G. Garland and later she made a number of gifts to her Alma Mater. When the new High school was built in 1889 she presented to the library a number of valuable reference books and her diploma, which was of course highly valued by the school.

The new High School Building on Alfred street, which was completed and occupied September 1889 and a source of much pride to the citizens was destroyed by fire with its contents, Sunday, Oct. 23, 1893. A great loss which could not be replaced was the library with its contents including many old books, now out of print and original documents including Mrs. Garland's diploma. The building was at once reconstructed and opened the same year for school sessions.

The town now abounds in good and commodious school buildings equipped with all kinds of educational facilities. From \$1200 in 1830, today the school budget is nearer \$40,000 annually. Fifty or more teachers are employed and there is a fine Evening School supported by the town. A list of the teachers for the past century contains names honored and honorable to a degree, many that are synonymous with all, that is best and most uplifting in the history of Biddeford.

This historiette would not be complete without a short account of Thornton Academy in Saco, which celebrated its centennial, in the summer of 1913. This school first known as "Saco Academy" was the first school of a higher grade than the District School, to be established for the youth of the two towns. In 1792 Dea. Jeremiah Hill and four other men in Biddeford purchased a piece of land and erected a school house and proposed to give it to the town. They petitioned the General Court for the right of incorporating but were refused. In 1811 a petition was presented to the Massachusetts Legislature by Thomas Cutts, Thomas G. Thornton and many others for the incorporation of an "Academy, in the town of Saco." The legislative committee reported that the petitioners had leave to bring in a bill, which was passed by the Senate and finally approved by the Governor, Feb. 16, 1811. The names of those petitioners read like a Blue Book of Saco and the list of trustees is really notable.

The old Academy building was erected near the place where the Unitarian Parish House now stands, and was dedicated on Jan. 4th, 1813. The first principal or preceptor was the Rev. Asa Lyman, who came from Portland and whose salary at first was \$500. He had 50 pupils, the youngest 11, the oldest 27 years of age.

This school afterward received the name, "Thornton Academy" from Dr. T. G. Thornton, who in 1822 gave the Academy ten shares of "Saco Bank" stock. In 1848, the old building was destroyed by fire and the funds not being sufficient was not rebuilt for many years.

In 1886 various gifts having been received and the fund having grown tremendously, a lot of land was purchased on the Portland road or upper Main street and in 1888-89 the present building was erected and opened on Sept. 9, 1889. The present institution with its group of four fine buildings on the Campus and the commodious Dormitory down town

need not be described, as it is so well known. Besides pupils from out of town, it is the High school for Saco, by virtue of a contract with the city.

Before going farther, we must take a look at Biddeford from a political standpoint after the Revolution. The treaty of peace with England made in 1783 was not productive of absolute harmony and we are told was not faithfully kept by either country. The United States was not paying her bills as she had promised and England had not given up the forts along the Great Lakes, as had been agreed upon. President George Washington had his troubles and his diplomatic notes and messages were not always favorably received. History repeats itself it can be easily seen. On the 4th of July, 1797 there was a great celebration for Biddeford and Pepperellborough. There was a procession. Capt. Bryant and Company, Speaker of the Day (Cyrus King), the Clergy, Leading Citizens, Military officers, and the two Marshalls, Jeremiah Hill, Esq. and Mr. Ichabod Fairfield were among the leaders. They marched to the "New Meeting House," on the hill (Second Congregational) and had a patriotic prayer, a fine oration and after that attended a banquet. Sixteen patriotic toasts were drank under the discharge of sixteen guns. Patriotism was popular and party feeling ran high.

The two political parties were the Federalists, now the Republicans, and their opponents the present Democratic party, then calling themselves Republicans. Maine was then Republican (Democratic) though New England, the richest section of the Union was generally Federal in spirit. Under Thomas Jefferson as President, Dr. Thornton of Pepperellboro was made Marshal of Maine and he was most sarcastic concerning this same spirit of Federalism and submitting to English encroachments, for fear of destruction to Commerce.

The war of 1812, at last was brought about and in March 1813 an English privateer appeared off Win-

ter Harbor and guns were heard as she attacked and captured several coasters. The Secretary of the Navy had promised a Gun Boat for the protection of the Pool but no such help appeared. Capt. Thomas Cutts, Jr., had succeeded to the property and business of his illustrious father Col. Thomas Cutts and had a large store and a ship-yard at the Pool. He boldly continued his work and rather laughed at his father's fear of the British.

On June 16, 1814, an English frigate, the Bulwark, appeared and anchored off the Pool. Fancy the excitement and the rushing to Old Orchard and Camp Ellis to see the enemy. Everybody thought the two towns were the object of attack and people in the most exposed homes began moving their valuables to places of safety.

Five boats landed 150 armed men on Stage Island first and later at the Pool landing. Capt. Cutts met them and asked the leader what was the object of the visit and was told the destruction of his property. He tried to buy the English officers off, by offering a money indemnity but was refused, his vessels destroyed, his store looted and two Cape Cod vessels burned. Jesse Tarbox, who lived at the Pool hastened to town, for the militia. The company did not hurry and when they finally marched down the Ferry road to Camp Ellis, the British marines had boarded the frigate and it was too late.

Peace was declared Dec. 24, 1814 but in those days of no railroads, the news did not reach here till some time later.

There was much excitement; the only church bell in either town, that given to the old Saco First Parish by Col. Cutts rang for hours; cannon boomed and men and boys shouting, paraded the streets. The Academy closed for the day and everyone joined in the rejoicing. One very laudable way of celebrating was the raising of a goodly sum of money by subscription, to distribute among the needy families on both sides of the river.

The list of subscribers contains many of the familiar old names, Jordan, Emery, Ward, Thacher, Pierson, Tristram Hooper, Stone, Maxwell, Cleaves, Spring, Murch, Warren, Sawyer and Wardwell from Biddeford; Thornton, Cutts, Nye, Scamman, David Buckminster, Fairfield, R. C. Shannon, Hartley, King, Chadwick, Calef, Tucker and Bradbury among the Saco names.

But the great social event was deferred some weeks and occurred according to good authority the first day of April. Marshal and Mrs. T. G. Thornton sent out invitations for a ball to be given at the Cleaves Tavern in Saco. This house had a dance hall or ball room with a spring floor and was selected as the most suitable place. Many wax candles illumined the scene, a vastly more becoming light than the electric glare of the present. Possibly one reason why the belles of the old time always seem so much more beautiful than the girls and women of today is because of this very soft light. The decorations and supper were all that could be asked. At that early time, Saco people were very fond of dancing and there had been a dancing school and master of the art several years earlier. "Fiddler Gray" of Portland furnished the music and all the first families on both sides attended. Preceptor Haskell, principal of the Academy sent the following note of regret:

"Preceptor Haskell returns his compliments to Marshal Thornton, for his polite invitation to a ball, and requests as a compliance with this request would not be in perfect accordance with his views and feeling, that he would have the goodness to excuse him.
Saco, March 30th, 1815."

Mrs. Moses Emery, the mother of Judge George A. Emery, was Sarah Thornton, daughter of the host and hostess and was present at the ball. She delighted to tell the young people during the latter part of her life of this notable affair and to her most excellent memory and graphic recital, the following description is

due. The gentlemen were in full dress and for the benefit of those who mistake the Colonial or Revolutionary costume of knee breeches, powdered hair or white court wigs, the following description taken from Mrs. Emery's stories is given.

"Their coats were of blue, brown, plum or dark green broad cloth. The collars and cuffs of these coats were generally of another color, either white or buff with gilt buttons. The shirts had ruffled bosoms and the waist coats were of silk damask, embroidered with silk or gold. The young men had mostly discarded knee breeches, but the elderly on such occasions still donned their satin or corduroy small clothes, with white or black silk hose and shoe buckles. All the army and navy officers were in full uniform.

"Madam Thornton, nee Sarah Cutts wore pale yellow satin and rich lace.

"Madame Tucker (Hannah Scamman) a pearl colored bordered robe of twilled silk and a vandyke of ~~men's~~ ^{blue} lace. (This gown was worn during the Peace Ball scene in the B. H. S. Alumni Pageant last fall.)

"Madame Nye (Eunice Cutts) a white satin with overdress of white India mull, embroidered with gold and Brussels lace, which was an heirloom in the Cutts family.

"Madame Cleaves of Biddeford wore cream colored brocaded silk, with gold lace.

"Miss Betsey Thornton wore pale blue satin and Miss Sarah Thornton (Mrs. Emery) a delicate pink satin."

The material of these dresses had been taken from a British ship captured in the late war by an American vessel.

The gowns were made in the fashion of the day with low corsage and short, puffed sleeves and many of them are still in existence in Saco, Biddeford and Kennebunk.

This ball is often confused with a reception given to Lafayette by Mrs. Thornton on June 24, 1825, at her own house on Main street, corner of Thornton avenue. Madam Thornton was then a widow, her husband, Mar-

shal Thornton having passed away several years earlier, but she gladly threw open her spacious mansion for a reception to the French hero, to which many ladies of Biddeford and Saco were invited to do honor to this distinguished visitor.

New England, and of course this section, did not want the war of 1812, fearing for her commerce and ship building and these two interests certainly did suffer terribly. The first problem James Monroe found confronting him when he came into the Presidency was the task of conciliating the people of the Northern states. In the summer of 1817 he travelled through this part of the country, by coach or on horseback, there being no railroads. He was an old soldier always a popular asset for a political campaign, having served in the Revolution and he possessed the gift of easily making friends; then a second term was even then being talked of and political fences must be in good condition. This journey was most successful and he attained wonderful popularity, so that his election for the second term was almost unanimous.

Saco, early sent through Marshal Thornton an urgent invitation for President Monroe to visit Saco, on his way from Portsmouth to Portland and on July 13, 1817 he left Portsmouth and making several stops, one at York, where he breakfasted with Judge Sewall and at Kennebunk for a public reception, he passed through Biddeford and Saco. A most courteous reply had been sent by the President to Marshal Thornton's invitation and somewhat elaborate preparations had been made to receive him.

Dr. Thornton had in his letter designated the proposed form the exercises in Saco would take and it is said to have been carried out almost entirely.

The plan was to meet the President at the bridge where a handsome arch should be erected, with an escort of mounted men and others in carriages. Twenty young girls, dressed in white, to represent the

states would strew roses in front of the distinguished visitor as he passed along. An address of welcome by Hon. Ether Shepley was a feature and then the same cavalcade was to escort the presidential party to the town line of Scarborough.

One hears but little of this visit, that of General Lafayette, eight years later seeming to have cast it completely in the shade.

After the Revolution, the new union of states felt much gratitude to France and the Marquis de Lafayette, the famous Frenchman, who became one of Washington's generals was a popular hero. When he visited this country in 1825, he was literally the "Nation's Guest" and his tour through the country was a personal triumph.

Saco and Biddeford united on this occasion to do him honor and all previous formalities having been observed, he was received on the "plains"—far out on Elm street at half past four, on the afternoon of June 24th. Ether Shepley Esq. Chairman of the Committee voiced the sentiments of the people in a brief and eloquent address, after which he was escorted to Cleaves' Tavern in Saco by a troop of horsemen, Col. George Thacher of Biddeford being Chief Marshal of the day.

Arches bearing various suitable inscriptions, as "Welcome Lafayette," "Yorktown 17-19th October 1781," "Versailles 5th, and 6th Oct., 1789." Across the second bridge was a French quotation, "J'admire sa prudence et J'aime son courage."

The streets were filled with cheering enthusiastic people, school children in uniform paid their addresses to the General and the Revolutionary soldiers paid their respects to their old commander and the whole scene was most affecting. He was then escorted to Col. Seth Spring's house on Spring's Island (the Deering offices) where he was entertained during his stay. Mrs. Thornton widow of Marshal T. G. Thornton opened her house on Main street, corner of Thornton avenue, for an

evening reception and the next morning after breakfast, he was escorted as far as Dunstan on his way to Portland. On Sunday he returned to Col. Spring's for breakfast, called on Col. Emery and attended morning service at the Second Church in Biddeford then left for Concord. This visit seemed to mark an epoch in the history of both towns and much space is given to it, for that reason.

CHAPTER FIVE

Maine Becomes Independent State

The great and absorbing question during the years following peace with England was that of the separation of Maine from Massachusetts. Many of the inhabitants of the Maine towns desired she should become an independent state. Of course there was opposition to this. It makes no difference what important proposition comes up, nor what may be its advantages, opposition can always be depended upon.

Town meetings were held, petitions were drawn up, resolutions passed and finally the Legislature of Massachusetts passed an Act, stating the conditions under which a separation could be granted. On the first Monday of September 1816, just a hundred years ago, the towns all held meetings to choose delegates to a convention to be held in Brunswick, the last Monday of September. The town meetings were to vote on the question of separation and report to the convention and if in favor the convention was to draw up a state constitution. The whole number of votes cast in the Maine towns was 22,466 of which 11,927 were for separation and 10,539 against it. By some figuring, the necessary majority not appearing, the committee decided that such a result had been reached and the convention supported it. But trouble arose and the work had to be done all over again but in 1819 the combined vote of the towns was undoubtedly in favor and the State of Maine was finally

admitted into the Union by Congress March 4th, 1820 and became an independent state the 16th of the same month.

The first Post Office was established in Biddeford in 1789 and Benjamin Hooper was appointed the first postmaster. Mail was brought into town at first on horseback and afterward in a light wagon by Joseph Barnard of Kennebunk. Josiah Paine of Portland succeeded him and first introduced into this part of the country, the four horse coach. The Hoopers, father and sons were postmasters for over ten years and the post office was kept in their tavern. In 1802 it was removed to Cutts' afterward Factory Island and in 1807 to the village in Saco, the population of Saco then exceeding that of Biddeford. It is a far cry from one room or part of a room, in a tavern in 1789 to the handsome Federal building on Washington street.

So long as sailing vessels from the Maine coast traversed the seven seas, many were the men of Biddeford and her sister town who were connected with the building and manning of ships. How many school children here know why the region, in the lower part of the city is called the "Ship Yard?" At one time vessels were built and sailed down the Saco commanded and manned by local men and within the writer's recollection, it was said that one could not ride down the Pool road and throw a stone that would not hit the home of a sea captain past or present. The descendants of Deacon Ebenezer Hill, who followed the sea and rose to eminence were many. The old Jordans figured in naval affairs during the war of the Revolution and that of 1812. Capt. Ichabod Jordan of Saco commanded the first American ship sent to Sweden in 1805. The event was celebrated in Stockholm by the city and the King and Queen of Sweden went on board and dined. The paper with instructions from President Jefferson to Capt. Jordan is still extant. In the war of 1812 the same Capt. Jordan was a prisoner on the British ship, Boxer, and was

on board at the time of the famous battle between the Boxer and the U. S. frigate, Enterprise, off Portland, celebrated as the "sea fight" by Longfellow and it will be recalled, that the captains of those two vessels are buried in the old cemetery on Congress street, at the foot of Munjoy Hill in Portland.

But shipbuilding has long been a thing of the past here and cotton manufacturing with kindred pursuits is the great industry of today.

Indian or Cutts, later Factory Island and it has been known by the latter name for nearly a century, has had a varied history. When the first settlement was made at Winter Harbor, it was a favorite retreat and rendezvous of the red men or natives, its position with waterfalls on either side rendering its location, at once, romantic and strategic.

In the summer of 1759, Col. Thomas Cutts at the height of his fame and prosperity, purchased a part of Indian Island and later acquired the entire island. At this time, it was uninhabited except at the fishing season, when Indians still resorted to their old rendezvous. Col. Cutts built a small home here in 1759 and a room in this was used as a store. The business grew rapidly and he engaged as well in shipbuilding, which also prospered and he became one of the leading merchants of the Province of Maine. His later home was the fine mansion on York hill now occupied by Agent Morrill.

Water power is always a leading factor in the prosperity of a town and the falls in the river here furnished plenty of that. In 1811 Josiah Calef of Boston entered into a partnership with Col. Cutts and formed the "Saco Iron Works Company." Mr. Owen says that "the whole expense of erecting the building and putting in machinery up to Jan. 1812 was \$14,329.86." This was up to this time the biggest enterprise in this section.

In the spring of 1825, Col. Thomas Cutts having died, Dominicus Cutts, his son, sold the island to a Boston company for the purpose of erecting

a cotton mill. The Iron Works were included in the purchase and the amount paid by the company to Mr. Cutts was \$110,000. At the same time, this company bought a considerable part of the water privilege on the Biddeford side, foreseeing its future value, and paying \$10,000 for the same.

In 1826, a mill was built on the island, 210 feet long, 47 feet wide and seven stories high, calculated to contain 12,000 spindles and 300 looms. Five hundred operatives were employed, of whom more than 400 lived on the island in tenements owned by the company. This was the beginning of the cotton mill industry in Saco and Biddeford. On Sunday, Feb. 21st, 1830 the mill was burned with its contents.

In 1831, the present York Manufacturing Company was formed with Samuel Batchelder, as the first agent. The capital was \$1,000,000 increased in 1848 to a million and a half. This is now the great "York Corporation" of today with many buildings, thousands of spindles and having a pay-roll of hundreds of men and women.

The Saco Water Power company, out of which grew the great Pepperell Manufacturing company though as a separate corporation was organized in 1839, mainly by Boston or Massachusetts men, the first superintendent being Rufus Nichols. This was formed to build cotton and woolen factories. In 1847 these same men formed a corporation to manufacture cotton and woolen goods. The Laconia Corporation now a division of the Pepperell was organized in 1844 as a separate affair but with what would now be termed an interlocking directorate, the same names appearing on both boards. The present Pepperell Company includes the original company and the Laconia combined, and Pepperell sheetings and drills go all over the world.

A companion industry is the concern known as the "Saco-Lowell shops," though located in Biddeford, which was formed as the "Saco Water Power Machine Company" many

years ago and manufactures cotton mill machinery, with an international reputation.

Textile prosperity is Biddeford's life.

As said in the very beginning of this tale of the old days, the banks of the Saco river, when Martin Pring, Champlain, Richard Vines and his merry men first saw them were covered with forests and the most stately and valuable of all was the great white pine, the monarch of the Maine of yesterday. The first settlers labored and toiled with axe, saw and other tools to "get out" the necessary timber for their simple cabins. As time went on and the demand increased enterprising individuals built saw mills and our first record of such a mill is that of Roger Spencer erected in 1653 and destroyed by Indians in 1675. Permission was given to Spencer that all "towns-men shall have bordes 12 d. in a hundred cheaper than any stranger." A second condition was that townsmen should be employed by him, "if they worked as cheap as a stranger." Other men were later given permission to build and run saw and grist mills. Sir William Pepperell erected a saw mill on Cata-ract Falls at a much later date.

In 1800 there were 17 saw mills on the Saco. In 1849, there were 11 mills cutting 4,500,000 feet per year and now the annual output of the two mills, "J. G. Deering & Son" and the "Diamond Match Co.," is over 15,000,000 feet.

The native inhabitant of Biddeford and Saco like the rest of America, was the Indian, the red man, of an entirely different race from the whites. When we say a native born American, he is if white a hybrid certainly. In Richard Vines' company of 32 men were English, one or two Irishmen and possibly a Scotchman but mostly English born and bred.

The settlers and colonists for the first two hundred years and more were the same. A few more Irish came over to us early like Thomas Haley and the Revolutionary local

hero, James Sullivan, and a number of Scotch also took up their homes in the new world like the McIntyres of York, but the great influx from other countries came with the growth of the cotton mills.

The national immigration reports show a great increase during the fifteen or twenty years following 1840. It was in the forties and early fifties, that Biddeford received the Irish visitors in any notable number. They came from old Ireland, driven by oppression and famine, the great "Famine Years" occurring in the late 40's. They came like our first settlers to better themselves and their children and they have remained to become a generally prosperous and always actively intelligent part of our citizenship. Natural politicians and natural orators they began early to be represented in town and city government and the professions and trades are filled with representative men, who trace their immediate descent to fathers, or grandfathers who came over within the last half century from old Ireland. Some of the most prominent of the early arrivals were the Twomeys, the Horigans and the Scannell's and the men of these families have been well known here for several generations.

When Biddeford celebrated in 1905, the 50th anniversary of the reception and adoption of a city charter, an old man, well known to all, rode in the procession, with a placard on his carriage, containing these words, "I was here in Fifty-five." That was Israel Shevenell, one of the first, if not our first friend coming from our neighbors on the north. Since that time all New England manufacturing towns and cities have increased their population by hundreds and thousands of French-Canadians. Biddeford has a generous share and is today the home of more French people than of any other nationality. But like the Irish they are making themselves into valuable and valued citizens, filling positions of trust and the last city election witnessed the first occasion when both parties put a French-

man up as a candidate for Mayor.

The corporations have always encouraged and assisted immigration from Great Britain and skilled operatives were eagerly sought in the manufacturing districts of England and Scotland. English mule spinners commanded good wages from the start and came with their families from the mill towns of Lancashire, during the years of our Civil War and later. Skilled Scotch weavers and workers from the region about Glasgow were sought by the York for the fine work on plaid and striped gingham and men and women from the land of the English rose and the Scotch thistle with their children are among our best citizens.

Northern Europe has not come to us here to any great extent save in the persons of Hebrew descent, who have sought sanctuary under our flag from poverty and persecution in Russia, Poland and Germany.

And now southern Europe is giving us of her thousands—Italians, Greeks, Turks, Albanians and Syrians—yes, a New England city like Biddeford is a great Melting Pot and we are looking forward to the finished product, to see what our next century will give us in the people with whom we live.

The glory of being the oldest dwelling house standing today, in the city of Biddeford rests with two houses and it is impossible to say, exactly to which it belongs. We can only tell the story as repeated by Mr. John Haley of Saco, a direct descendant of Thomas Haley, who very early built a garrison house on the spot, where the famous "Old Haley House," on the Pool road now stands and who was later killed by the Indians. His son, Sergeant Thomas Haley was also killed by the Indians.

After the worst of the troubles were over, about 1720, his grandson, Benjamin Haley, with other settlers took possession of their homes and lands again, from which they had fled to the forts and to other settlements, for protection. Whether he found the old house standing, when so many had been burned by the sav-

ages is not positively known, but if not, he rebuilt on the selfsame spot and that house still stands, though much altered and is owned and occupied by Captain Fletcher, a descendant of Pendleton Fletcher from whom the headland at the Pool known for years as "Fletcher's Neck" took its name.

Capt. Samuel Jordan built the house back of Fort Hill in 1717, known as the "Goldthwaite house" so that in case Benjamin Haley was obliged to build a new home in 1720, the Goldthwaite or Jordan house antedates the other. But they are both landmarks of distinction and should be regarded as such. The Goldthwaite house is well preserved and stands in a little cove, where settlers and natives landed from boats, when they came to trade at Jordan's store.

In this connection, it may be said, that the story of the Fletcher family reads like an old romance. In the old town records, the burial of a William Fletcher is mentioned, as occurring on January 30, 1667. Folsom says "he was the father of Rev. Seth Fletcher," who was a minister at Winter Harbor about that time. About 1675 Seth Fletcher removed from here with his wife, who was Mary Pendleton, daughter of Major Pendleton, a well known property owner at Winter Harbor. After Mr. Fletcher's death, Major Pendleton adopted the only son, Pendleton Fletcher, to whom he left the land at the Pool above mentioned. It included Wood Island and another island. This was Lieut. Fletcher and he was captured by the Indians four times and died in 1746, leaving a number of sons, among them another Pendleton Fletcher, who became very prominent in the history of the town and died almost a centenarian, in 1807. This Fletcher sold one-half the "Neck," one-half of Wood Island, etc., to Batchelor Hussey of Nantucket Island in 1737 and that marks the coming of the Hussey family, to these shores, where members have lived ever since.

The next notable old house on the

Pool Road is at "Jordan Farm" and this was erected in 1740 by Capt. Samuel Jordan, grandson of the Rev. Robert, and his eldest son, the first Rishworth Jordan and he took his name from his grandmother, Mary Rishworth of York. This was on the site of the old Stackpole garrison house, built in the latter part of the previous century and when it was remodeled in 1902, by the present occupant, whose husband, Harry Jordan Tatterson was a direct descendant of the Captain, carpenters found the timbers of the old garrison house grown so hard that nails could not be driven in to them.

The house built in 1740, included in the eastern end the wall and roof of the garrison house and today, they are carefully preserved. The original front door of 1740 is here, the staircase and spacious front rooms with deep window seats, for it was a much more pretentious dwelling, than the earlier houses and was made by Judge Jordan into a fine affair, with panelling wrought by hand and a fine staircase. The interior finish of the old part of the house is of the first growth pine and the boards are of a width and quality impossible now to obtain.

Opposite the oak grove at Jordan Farm is an old grave yard where Capt. Samuel Jordan and several of his descendants are buried. Captain Samuel having as a boy been captured three times by the French and Indians, became well acquainted with the red men and was as a man highly esteemed by them. When he was in command at the Pool and on various occasions he used his influence in pacifying hostile Indians and saved the settlers from attack, several times. In memory of his services, the British government at his death in 1742, placed a stone over his grave. This stone was of slate and rested in a horizontal position on a foundation of bricks. In the centre was a large heart of a different color bearing his name, the date of birth and of his death. Sometime since the cement having become disintegrated, the heart was removed for

safe keeping to Jordan Farm, where it is at the present time.

Near this is the picturesque house occupied by Mrs. A. L. Flood and her mother, Mrs. Miriam Mitchell, the date of which is not known exactly, but it was built by the grand uncle of Mrs. Mitchell's grandfather Tarbox and she has just passed her 87th birthday. The old Falker place is another relic of a by-gone time. The large and beautifully located home of Colonel F. W. Roberts is another, and the quaint homestead of R. H. Gay, whose mother was another Jordan, for the latter family built homes along the road to town. It was impossible to ascertain the dates of these, but at the foot of the hill on Pool street, opposite the drinking fountain is still another, built by Ichabod Jordan, grandfather of Mrs. Henry Hutchinson and great grandfather of the "Gove Boys."

In the city proper are a number of old wooden houses, turned into tenements, but not retaining any features of the originals, which were once scattered over the lower part of the city, now covered by Ward Two.

The oldest brick dwelling standing is the large house, corner of Lincoln and Stone streets, owned by the Pepperell and occupied by Mr. George Gibbs. The date is not known but the fact that Parson Tracy, who preached at the Second Church in 1825 and just previous, lived in it, places it as older than the well known stately "Gould House" on Alfred street, which was built in 1830, by Charles Gould, father of the present Charles O. and the late Royal E. Gould. It has been occupied by that family ever since and is in a fine state of preservation.

When it was erected, Mr. Gould's acquaintances laughed at him for building so far out in the country and his wife received the condolences of her friends, for the loneliness of her new home.

The Deering offices on Spring's Island have rescued the Capt. Seth Spring mansion from tenement oblivion. When Gen. Lafayette visited Saco in 1825, this was one of the fin-

est homes in town and the famous General was entertained there.

On the river road, one home of note is that known for many years as the "Coffin House." It stands on a rise of ground, just above the Goodwin's Mills road.

Many have inquired the date of the building of "Hotel Thacher," formerly the "Biddeford House." This old landmark was erected in 1841. The ground where it stands was a swampy place and piles were driven to support the foundation. The builder was William Haley, grandfather of John Haley of Saco, who lived on the lower end of the present Crescent street and the first landlord was a man named Thorpe.

Dr. Aaron Porter built the so-called old "Maxwell" house on Water street in 1773. It was then a two story house. James Maxwell remodelled it and also built the three connecting houses running up High street, giving each son a home as he married.

Capt. Israel Laselle built the old Ward house in Ferry Lane still standing, which was used as a fort.

Saco has some fine old residences erected during the period about 1800, for at that time, it was the larger town and much more wealthy. The Cutts home on Factory Island, the old Capt. Jordan house on Storer street, the house now the Colonial theatre, the Thornton Dormitory, built in 1802 by Joseph Leland and occupied so long by Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Hamilton and the house on Middle street owned by Mrs. McArthur are among them.

Much has been told of Vines, of the Jordans, Fletchers, Haleys and many other notable families. The name Tarbox dates back to our earliest settlements and we are told that the family was Norman-French going over to England, like the Jordans, with William, the Conqueror. It was originally Tarbeau and our name Tarbox comes from that. The men of that name have been fine settlers, fine colonials and fine modern citizens.

The English were in the majority

among those early settlers but the adventurous and clever Irish also were represented. The Haleys, Gibbens, Rogers, Patrick Googins and Capt. Lane, once commander of Fort Mary were among these. The Kilpatrick or Kilpatrick as they then spelled the name came here from Wells in 1762 and the original Kilpatrick from Coleraine in Ireland much earlier.

There is a most interesting and romantic story of the Sullivans. James Sullivan, the famous lawyer came to Biddeford in 1769 from Berwick and opened a law office. His parents settled in Berwick, early in the 16th century, having emigrated from Limerick, Ireland. His father of gentle birth came over to this country, poor in purse and at first worked on the farm of the McIntires, Scotch people, at the old garrison house in York. One day he was asked if he could write a letter and he wrote that epistle in seven languages. He came of a line of fighting men famous in the Irish struggles; his grandfather was with the great Earl of Lucan at Limerick and "Master Sullivan" as he was called in Berwick, where he taught the classics for many years was much involved in the early plots of the old Pretender. The story in Berwick ran this way: "They say that he had four countesses to his grandmother and that his grandfathers were princes of Ireland." His father was banished to France and Master John was brought up in one of the great colleges in Paris and reared among the best Frenchmen of his time. He refused to marry according to his mother's wish and being mixed up in political plots came to this land an emigrant, marrying a pretty and good and clever peasant girl he met aboard the ship. His sons were Gen. John Sullivan, a lawyer and afterward one of Washington's generals and James, who came here in 1769.

James Sullivan worked hard, became a noted lawyer and later on a Judge. He laid out the town of Limerick and named it from Limerick, Ireland, the home of his family.

He cleared the land and spent the week days there, walking home on Saturday to spend the Sabbath with his family in his home in Biddeford. The story goes, that his father visited him here once and that they walked out to see the falls of the Saco. An old Irishwoman had lately come over with her grandchildren. She was said to be a hundred years old and of a wonderful memory and they stopped to see the woman. She came out of the house and fell upon her knees before the old man.

"My God! 'Tis the young Prince of Ardea," she said. "I mind me well of your lady mother sir; 'twas in Derry I was born, but I lived a year in Ardea and yourself was a pretty boy, busy wid yer courtin!" The old man was much moved. "Let us go James! This will break my heart!" But he gave her his blessing and all that was in his purse. Let the Sullivans look well to their ways for they come of good stock. Sullivan street was named for this same James, the lawyer and he lived in the house now standing at the corner of Hill and Water streets.

Other prominent citizens have been mentioned in this story and the list might be continued indefinitely, for we have had some proper men here, from the dashing Vines to the public spirited and generous Robert McArthur and we cannot count them all.

CHAPTER SIX

First Steam Rail Road

During the years between 1840 and 1855 the town constantly increased in population and wealth and while many interesting matters came up and much took place, no one has written the history of Biddeford since that time, as was done by several writers previously.

The first great improvement during that period was the building of the first railroad to pass through the town. This was the old Portland, Saco and Portsmouth road for which the preliminary survey was made in

1840. During the next two years the road was laid out and constructed and in 1842, was declared open for travel and trains were run between Portland and Portsmouth. This is now a part of the Eastern Division of the Boston and Maine.

At that time, one could not travel all the way from Biddeford to Boston by rail, but beyond Portsmouth the old stage coaches were still used. This railroad was later extended to Boston and became the Eastern Railroad. The Boston and Maine road on the other hand, for many years was only built from Boston through Lawrence and Dover to North Berwick and by virtue of a lease or some such arrangement ran its trains over the old Portland, Saco and Portsmouth Railroad from that junction to Portland.

In 1874 the Boston and Maine built an extension from North Berwick to Portland running near to Wells Beach, passing through Kennebunk Village and through the thickly populated portions of Biddeford and Saco. Old Orchard was the objective point evidently and the line passed near to the shore, as far as Pine Point, then on through Scarborough to Portland. This extension was a great factor in building up Old Orchard Beach, Grand Beach and in fact the entire shore between the Saco River and Pine Point. Previous to this, passengers for Old Orchard stopped at the old Saco depot far out on North street and were driven to the then exclusive resort, in four horse coaches.

Then came the merger of the two roads in the Eastern and Western Divisions of the Boston and Maine Railroad and its recent history is well known to all.

For 28 years a street railway has been in operation in Biddeford. The Biddeford and Saco Horse Railroad ran its first cars over the line, which then began at King's Corner, July 9, 1888. The cars ran to Old Orchard in the summer and had a fine patronage but during the first few years, when the bad snow storms of winter blocked the road and filled the

streets, an omnibus called "the herdic" holding possibly eight or 10 people passed between the two cities. The road was electrified in 1892 and was operated summer and winter and the loop or extension up Alfred street to Five Points and thence by Elm street to Main added much to the convenience of the citizens and caused a decided growth of the city in that direction.

Today, the Atlantic Shore system of trolley lines enters the City square and in Saco an interurban line runs to Portland connecting with the Biddeford and Saco road, giving us much better facilities and uninterrupted travel by electric cars is possible from New York to Portland and far down into the state. This is the evolution from Joseph Barnard's light mail wagons in 1790 and the four horse coaches of Josiah Paine, which ran through this town from Portland about 1800.

Of course the new railroad in 1842 was a great object of pride to towns on its line and Biddeford rapidly forged to the front in size. Other matters of interest kept coming up and the Mexican Question, then as now was becoming more and more imperative, as daring pioneers from the southern and southwestern states flocked into the Texas country, then debatable ground and fighting for independence. Matters came to a head in President Polk's administration and the "Mexican War" followed lasting through 1846 and 1847, a treaty being signed Feb. 2nd, 1848.

The New England States opposed the war like the other Whig states and so it was not at all popular in Maine. A few men enlisted from the two towns but little interest was felt, although by the war, the United States gained much territory and Texas became a state.

The discovery of gold in 1848 following our acquisition of California caused a great wave of excitement all over the land and a few "Forty-Niners" as they were called went from this section to seek their fortunes in the new Eldorado.

On looking up the history of the

local press, for the last 80 years, much interesting matter has been unearthed and it is surprising to know of the journalistic enterprises that have started during that time. At one point, in the investigation, it looked as if, for a long period, every man, with a small amount of cash or a large amount of credit, who had literary or political aspirations, either bought out some existing publication or launched one, entirely new.

The oldest paper, of which any account can be found is the *Maine Palladium*. The first number was published March 15, 1826, the editor was Alexander Putnam and the office was in the brick block, next to the stone store occupied by Casseboom and Thompson on Main street, Saco. It was not revealed how long this paper was published, but it was of the old style, with a Poet's Corner, no headlines and no sporting page.

Then came the old *Maine Democrat*, first published in Saco, its first issue dated July 30, 1829, editor William J. Condon and the first home was in Moody's Block, 3 Main street. Among the advertisements in this was that of the "Maine State Lottery," with a long list of prizes and it seems these were perfectly legal affairs. Later John Condon doubtless son of William edited the paper.

The *Democrat* passed through various hands, always a weekly paper, was the property sometime of Alpheus Hanscom and after 38 years of life in Saco was purchased and brought to Biddeford by Hon. Charles A. Shaw a cousin of Jere G. Shaw and in 1865-66, Democratic Mayor of the city. Charles Shaw had built a large wooden block, on the site of the present Shaw's block and the end nearest Jefferson street was four stories in height, the remainder of the structure having three stories. The lower floor was occupied by stores, the second by offices and the third by a hall, with a theatre stage and balcony. In the two upper stories of the western end, Shaw installed offices, press room and composing room of the *Democrat* and his

new venture the Daily Evening Times, the first daily paper published in either city. Edward S. Morris came here from Portland to edit these papers and Marcus A. Watson who was a printer of long experience was foreman. Mr. Shaw tired of his venture and it was then ex-Governor E. K. Smart came into possession of the Democrat for a very short time but it soon passed into the hands of Mark Watson who revived the Times and the first number under his reign was issued April 13, 1872 and the offices were in a wooden block called "Printer's Exchange," which stood, where the Savings Bank Building now is, Shaw's Block having been burned. He continued the Democrat as a weekly and the firm name was Marcus Watson and Sons. George K. Shaw edited the Democrat at that time. They disposed of the Times to Andrew J. Small and it passed into his hands, July 18, 1876. On Mr. Small's decease, the Times became the property of his sisters and the late Miss Josephine Small conducted the paper with William Raney editor for a time and A. L. T. Cummings as her assistant. John Haley was also connected with this publication and Charles S. Hamilton did some editorial work. Miss Small later sold to Frank Winch of Saco and he to William A. Roberts and the latter finally discontinued the paper in the late nineties. The Maine Democrat was sold by Watson to William S. Noyes and Co. in 1876 and was published in a building in Saco where the York Institute now stands. The year of the Democrat's demise could not be found.

To return to the older time, another early publication was the York County Herald, a weekly, with the names S. and A. C. Webster as editors and proprietors and Vol. I, No 1, was issued April 7, 1838, in an office over the Manufacturers Bank, which stood around the corner from Main on Storer street, Saco. The publication ceased temporarily in 1841, with the close of the third volume and was not again started.

Another old paper was the "Week-

ly Gazette" again a Saco project and it was launched Jan. 6, 1858 by Charles H. Granger and Marcus Watson. A sub head states, that it was "Neutral; Devoted to State and General News, Literature, Science, Morality, the Markets, Mechanics, Agriculture and Amusement." Some scope for a four page paper of small size and after several years versatility killed it.

February 7, 1845, Noyes and Cowan began the publication of the Union, one parent of the Biddeford Journal of today. It was a weekly paper, about the size of the present Journal with small type and no headlines, like all papers of past years. The office was in Saco and Mr. Noyes was the father of William S. Noyes, while L. O. Cowan was the father of Miss Fannie and grandfather of Arthur Cowan. An editorial in December of the same year takes up our proposed "Purchase of the Californias" and states that Slidell, our minister to Mexico, was authorized by the government in Washington to carry on negotiations. He was empowered to offer a sum from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 for the territory. Daniel Somes was Mayor in 1855 and about that time being politically inclined, he came into the journalistic field with a paper called the Eastern Journal, which in 1856 he sold to Noyes and Cowan of the Union and the two were united under the title of "Union and Eastern Journal" and Mr. Noyes retired, one Philbrick coming into the firm. The offices for this paper of the long name were in the old Central Block, which stood on the present site of the City building in Biddeford. This block was burned March 2nd, 1856 and the paper had to find another home. Somewhere about 1864, the Butlers, father and son, purchased the paper, after the decease of Lewis O. Cowan and in 1868, John E. Butler, the son was sole proprietor and his father, Oliver Butler started a paper called the Advance. Butler had shortened the name to "Union and Journal," which was still a weekly and late in the seven-

ties sold out to George A. Hobbs, who only retained it for a year or two.

Now came a decided change in its name and fortunes. On July 1st, 1880, it was purchased by the brothers, William and Charles H. Prescott and the name changed to the Biddeford Journal, which it bears today. William Prescott did not remain long and C. H. Prescott became sole proprietor and on Jan. 1st, 1884, the new daily came out, with the weekly edition retained. Since 1889, this paper has had several homes. a wooden building on Main street next the Masonic building, the Savings Bank building, the Quimby and Sweetsir block and the present fine Journal Block on Adams street. The paper has always been Republican in politics and has represented that party in this town and county.

In 1869 a new weekly paper called the York County Independent was started in Saco by Wm. S. Noyes and Co., and this was continued for several years but merged in the Democrat in 1876. Noyes also published the Evening Post in 1877. During that same year, the National Centennial Year, two other new papers came into being. On March 6, 1876, Colonel F. W. Roberts got out a small sheet called the Daily Chronicle. A month later he enlarged it, but did not long continue its publication and the same year Marcus Watson and son brought out August 1st, the first number of the Daily Evening Star. At the head of the editorial columns was the name of the Presidential Candidate and strange enough it was that of Rutherford B. Hayes. It was the year of a presidential election, which accounts for the big crop of new papers. Why Mark Watson, an old line Democrat for so many years had this change of heart the writer cannot say.

It seemed strange, for just previous to the Civil War, Watson published in the Crysal Arcade, the Eastern Herald, a red hot Breckinridge paper of such coppery tendencies, that a man said the other day,

a crowd fairly mobbed the office. Times change and we change with them.

Then there was a paper for a short time edited by J. Wilkinson called the Saco Republican financed probably, by somebody with political aspirations and Roberts' Observer, a short lived journal. In the early eighties John Hanscom published the Sentinel for a few years but in 1887 or 1888, a few good Democrats of the two cities formed a syndicate, purchased the Sentinel and the Standard came into being. Walter Page managed the paper and the office and various newspaper men available, edited it, each for a short time, among them P. W. McIntyre, one of the most brilliant writers the state has ever known. He was for a long time connected with Portland papers and one of his greatest feats was the hot political controversy between the Argus and Press, when he wrote scathing articles for one and replied to them in equally fiery and sarcastic style in the other. As a literary critic and essayist he was equally good and his knowledge of the classics and the early Victorian writers was a great delight to him and to his admirers.

The Biddeford Record is the latest entry into the newspaper field in Biddeford. It began its career on March 25, 1895 and consequently has very recently attained its legal majority. John W. Robinson and George L. Sands both former city editors of the Journal, bought out the good will and remains of the Standard and began the work of running a Democratic daily. The first office of the paper was in the wooden block, next to the Masonic building and a few years since, The Record moved into its present quarters on the other side of the street.

John W. Robinson still edits the paper but his partner, George L. Sands, a brilliant writer and journalist passed away some years since.

Saco has a weekly paper, the Saco News gotten out in connection with a sister paper at Old Orchard and owned by Judge Ferris of Old Or-

chard.

Will H. Watson long known as a clever writer and expert printer published for 20 years a weekly or monthly paper called Watson's Illuminator, filled with all kinds of interesting matter, much of it original with him. It had more than a local reputation selling well on trains and newstands throughout New England.

Other papers probably came into being temporarily but no record of them is found. Besides the men previously mentioned many young men received their early training on these papers; A. L. T. Cummings, now in another field, but considered one of the most reliable of correspondents, holding for a long time, after leaving here an important position on the Boston Herald; George B. Goodwin, a clever and witty writer, who was at different times doing editorial work on the Bangor Commercial, Boston Post and New York Herald and at one time editing a daily in Texas; Fred Mason, who with his jokes and breaks made many women mad when he adorned the local chair, of more than one paper here and now a newspaper man of mark. These and countless others make up the list, who have helped to render our papers valued visitors to the homes of this city.

Someone has said conducting a newspaper is easy work, start one and your readers will tell you just how to run it.

The evolution of the Fire Department, from the days of the Bucket Brigade, when every house holder had a couple of leather fire buckets, which he was expected to seize and run with when an alarm was given, to the present efficient trained men and the latest equipment would fill a volume.

The first record of any fire company in this city is of the old Pioneers in 1848. The first meeting for choice of officers was Sept. 15th of that year, when James Smith, Jr., father of Frank J. Smith, was president and General G. H. Warren, chairman. No list of members of that

time is found.

The first big fire attended by this company was on Factory Island, on the York, Dec. 21, 1848. The foreman was James L. Lombard and the company made a good record. The bell on the Washington street school building, then new, was rung for fire alarms, but previous to March 1851, the firemen had no key and must burst in the door to ring the bell. All the men in town joined, either as active or honorary members and as it was a volunteer company, the financial support came from the public and not from the town treasury.

In 1852 new uniforms were purchased and the red flannel shirts certainly were most striking and becoming. Esreff H. Banks, B. E. Cutter and Rufus Small were members of a committee to buy the uniforms.

The Fourth of July came on Sunday that year and on the Fifth, the celebration occurred, the firemen being the leading feature of the parade, after which there was an oration by R. M. Chapman in the White Church.

In August 1854, the Pioneers held high carnival. Two fire companies, the Bears from Norway and another company from Belfast were guests of the local firemen and the party lasted for two days. There was a parade and firemen's muster, a ball in the evening and the second day was given up to a visit to the Pool and a monster clam bake.

In 1855, when the first city officers were chosen under the new charter, the appointment of William Thompson, agent of the Water Power as Chief Engineer caused a great disturbance, the members deeming it a political dodge and the company promptly disbanded. Thompson called for volunteers, for a new company, which was immediately formed and called the Triumph and it took possession of the old apparatus. Central hall a large building on the site of the old triumph hall a large building on the site this time, and while the Triumph was the only company the old members of the Pioneers worked with a will to put out the fire. Eben

Simpson was nearly killed on this occasion, but the fire did much to bring about better feeling and the Second Pioneer company was formed in 1859, Charles Whitney, foreman, Charles O. Gould, clerk.

June 2nd, 1859, the new Pioneer machine arrived and the event was made an occasion for quite a celebration. The Triumph company headed by the Saco Cornet band, R. M. Hoobs, leader, escorted the Pioneer crew to the station and back, with the new engine. Many of the members of both companies enlisted and were in the war of 1861. About 1870, there was much rivalry between the companies and politics entered into this department, as it had into others and finally the old hand tubs went out, the new steamers came in and volunteer fire companies were a thing of the past. There was an engine house on Washington street, one on Stone street, behind Quimby and Sweetsir's block and a hook and ladder company, the Conqueror, on Main street, just above the McArthur library, in the early seventies.

The new companies, both with homes on Washington street were the Eben Simpson, named for a long time Fire Chief and the Richard Vines named for our friend of 1616. These are in commission today with Steamer No. 3, Chemical No. 1 and the Welcome Hook and Ladder company, familiarly known to the boys, as the "Hooks." In the old days, when the High school was on Washington street and the hand tubs composed the department, the High school boys gladly welcomed the rush of firemen into the entry and up the stairs and the clangor of the fire bell was a cheerful interruption. It was a brave and determined principal who could hold the boys, for it was away to "run with the machine" for many of them and they were pretty evenly divided between the Pioneer and the Triumph.

System, efficiency and equipment have robbed the department of much excitement and romance but results count, as in everything.

There was a Bucket Brigade in

Saco and the first very big fire, York Mill No. 1, on Feb. 21st, 1830 showed its limitations. The fire was on Sunday and steam down, in the mill, so the corporation force pumps could not be used. Then gradually hand engines came in and in 1849, there were three companies, the Deluge, Tigers and Niagara. The Tigers disbanded in 1859, their last big fire being in a steam mill, in the ship yard. In 1862, the other two companies reorganized, the Niagara remaining in service till 1871. The original company of this name organized in 1848 had for officers Tracy Hewes, foreman, assistant foreman, Oren Edwards, clerk and treasurer, F. O. Staples. There were over 170 members and a list of the names would be a fair directory of Saco at that time.

First steam fire engine in our sister city, was the "Saco," which arrived in August 1864 and in 1871, the first Governor Fairfield was purchased when the Niagara went out of service.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Charter and City Government

In the early fifties, the inhabitants of this flourishing town began to agitate the subject of a city charter, a majority of the people longing for municipal honors and responsibilities. In 1855, 61 years ago, this very September, Biddeford received its charter and became an incorporated city and has long been the fourth in size in the state, the others being in order, Portland, Bangor and Lewiston. The first Mayor was Daniel E. Somes, a Republican and he served for 1856 and 57. James Andrews was the second to hold that office, also a Republican. In 1858-1859 Cyrus Gordon, a sterling Democrat presided over municipal affairs and it was during his incumbency, that the first City building was begun and nearly completed, though it was not dedicated until July 4th, 1860, when Jonathan Tuck was Mayor.

Twenty-seven men have held this

office, many of them serving two terms and several being nominated and elected two or three different times. The present incumbent is the Hon. Leopold A. Girard, who was elected by the Democrats in March 1916.

The old City building was destroyed by fire on the night of December 31st 1894 and it was certainly a lurid passing out of the old year, for Biddeford. One of the notable sights that many recall was the appearance of the ruined building during that New Year's Sunday, 1895. The entire Main street facade was a sheet of ice, where torrents of water had frozen as soon as striking the front. All through the bitterly cold night, the engines were playing and smoke had so mingled with the water, that colors in the ice varied from pale yellow, through all shades of brown and gray. It was a sight long to be remembered, by those who witnessed it and cast a gloom over the city.

But during the year, the present City building arose Phoenix-like from the ashes of the old one, much larger and with some improvements. Many of the offices were placed in the third story and a large "Opera House" was added to take the place of the old City hall. Financially and in other ways, this last has doubtless been of increased value, to the city, but there is no large hall, with adequate floor space, for the big semi-official functions, that occur in every municipality.

During the years just previous to 1861, there had been much agitation of the slavery question. This was no longer sectional but widespread and Maine followed her step-mother Massachusetts in her sentiments and decided stand against it. There was no apathy concerning the issues as at the time of the war of 1812 or the Mexican War. When Fort Sumter was fired upon and President Lincoln's call for troops came, Maine was ready and eager to send her quota of hardy, patriotic men, who felt no matter what their political faith might be, that the Union of States must be preserved.

Biddeford and Saco came to the front and did their share in this great work and the record left is a most creditable one.

The following figures have been obtained: The enlistments in Biddeford, including the naval service was 582 and in Saco 371.

These numbers represent sometimes more than one enlistment, that is, often a man's term of service ending, he again entered the army.

A familiar face on Biddeford streets is a veteran of the Civil War, James F. Tarr, one of the few company officers left, who went from Biddeford and Saco. He was in Company A, First Maine Regiment and when the men returned from the first enlistment, which was for only three months, they went out again in the Tenth Maine and some of them later in the Twenty-Ninth. Mr. Tarr became a sergeant and was wounded three times.

John Haley of Saco has an interesting souvenir of the struggle and is full of reminiscences. His "Diary of the War" is a volume of 540 pages, the size of a square large letter sheet and is printed by himself with a pen. He estimates that there are over 1,240,000 words in it and it is an account of his experiences and what he saw, enlivened by his own comments.

Andrew Mason, well known to the older citizens had a most interesting war experience and was a raconteur to whom it was a pleasure to listen. He was in the 33rd Massachusetts and had a fine record.

Right here an interesting story may be told of another former Biddeford man, now of New York and that is O. F. Page, formerly paymaster on the Pepperell and afterward an officer in the Biddeford Savings bank. He was a Maine boy but enlisted in a Massachusetts regiment, when he was not quite 18.

Fifteen years ago, he was traveling in Egypt and was at Assouan, as far up the Nile as tourists usually go. Sitting on a hotel piazza, one morning, he observed a man about his own age coming up the steps. This

man happened to seat himself next to Mr. Page and they fell into conversation. They soon found out they were Americans, and that both wore the Grand Army button: It developed gradually that both were in the same Massachusetts regiment, the same company and both wounded in the Second Battle of Bull Run. They both lay on the battle field several days, succored only by Confederates and both were taken prisoners. Until this encounter, they had never met since captured. Verily truth is stranger than fiction.

In the spring of 1898 after much muttering of diplomatic thunder came the unfortunate and tragic destruction of the U. S. battleship "Maine," in the harbor of Havana and this precipitated the war with Spain, over the treatment of Cuba. The local militia, a fine company long known as the "Biddeford Light Infantry," Capt. E. S. Gowen commanding, answered the call for men and a majority volunteered to do service against Spain. They went South, suffered more from disease and climate than anything else, performed the part given them honorably and then came marching home again, welcomed back by everybody. It was not their fault, that they were not with Roosevelt and the Rough Riders at San Juan Hill or with Dewey in Manila Bay and there was not glory enough to go around.

Much stress has been laid upon men of the earlier days of this town. During the last 40 or 50 years there have been many men prominent in the city. Only a few additional names can be mentioned of those who have passed into the Great Beyond. Connected with manufacturing interests were Hon. William P. Haines long time agent of the Pepperell Mills, Hon. Augustine Haines of the Laconia, James G. Garland, James P. McMillan, John S. Burnham, James G. Brackett, R. M. Hobbs and Robert McArthur. The brothers, James, Leonard and Ira Andrews, Woodbury Gooch, Joseph Gooch, Timothy Shaw, Jr., Hon. Charles A. Shaw, James R.

Clark, Abel L. Jellerson, George O. Burnham, Charles Hardy, Thomas Cole, Captains Nehemiah, William and Waldo Hill, Edward W. Staples, Orrin H. Staples and E. E. Clark were business men of high standing. In professional circles Rev. Charles Tenney and Rev. J. D. Emerson are recalled by all and among teachers, Moses Haines, Thomas H. Emery, Edward Parker, Jr., Edward S. Morris, Royal E. Gould and Harry J. Taterson were identified with the public schools.

The bar has had men of far more than local reputation such as Hon. John M. Goodwin, John Q. Adams, Wilbur Lunt, Benj. F. Hamilton, Timothy Hubbard, C. S. Hamilton and G. N. Weymouth.

Dr. Horace Bacon, his brother Dr. Alvin Bacon, Dr. James Sawyer, Dr. Francis G. Warren and Dr. John Lord were prominent not only in their profession but in other ways as citizens and the list might be continued indefinitely.

The great artery, that runs through the most vital part of this community is the Saco River, the theme of song and story since the days of Champlain in 1606. Rising in the "White Hills" which were objects of veneration to the aborigines, this "fair and goodly stream" of the early settlers finds its winding way, through Conway meadows and by Fryeburg's pleasant fields down, down through the county towns, receiving the Ossipees in its embrace, until at Hollis and Buxton it pours through the gorge and sweeps on to Biddeford, Saco and the Islands, in its splendid journey to the sea. Coming up the river, there are several places, where looking ahead from a boat, one sees only the irregular banks, clothed with evergreen, oak and birch trees and it is not difficult to reconstruct the scene for the early voyager. A fairer, more beautiful reason for a city cannot be imagined. By moonlight, at sunset or at mid-day, the scene is equally beautiful and romantic until rounding the last bend, the clustered spires of the churches and the massive walls of

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the great mills come into view and the homes of two cities rise on either hand. That is the finest and best approach to our thriving town and a sight that has delighted the eyes of many tourists and pleasure seekers, this past summer.

The last 15 years of our municipal life is too recent to be history, save in the making. There has been a steady increase in numbers and prosperity and today, to speak, in the Western manner, we claim a population of 20,000. Literally viewed in the cold light of fact it is a little over 18,500.

Much money has been spent on streets and other civic improvements. New business blocks have been erected and private enterprise is doing something all the time to add to our valuation. We have a fine public library and reading rooms, partly supported by the city, but built, equipped and endowed through the generosity of the late Robert McArthur and many others.

Like the Fourth of July orator, "we point with pride," to our Post Office, and our Central Fire Station that have done so much to improve Washington street; to our splendid water supply, our two hospitals and other improvements.

Labor troubles are little felt and little known. When the great mill gates are opened at noon and at night and the work shops are emptied, thousands of orderly, well dressed men and women crowd the streets and pass to their homes in all parts of the city. Look at the picture at 6 o'clock tonight; comfort, peace, prosperity, their evidences are everywhere and there, as the sun sets send your thoughts back to that other September day and watch the little vessel sailing up the bay to Winter Harbor freighted with stout hearts and high hopes. Who can tell

what was Vines' vision of the future of this fair enticing land?

Honor to him, to his band of 32 gallant men and their long line of descendants, some of whom are living in our midst today.

Our town was what her people made it in 1616, in 1630, in 1775, in 1812, in 1861 and in 1916. She can never rise above her inhabitants and a tremendous duty and rich opportunity lie with us and ours.

THE END.

CREDIT FOR VALUABLE AID

The writer desires to give credit for many dates and much information, to Folsom's "History of Saco and Biddeford" published in 1830; to Mr. Daniel E. Owen's "Old Times in Saco;" to the Jordan Family History; the New England Historical and Genealogical Register and other sources. Mr. John Haley a descendant of Thomas Haley, one of the very early settlers and the librarian of the Dyer Library in Saco, has a great store of valuable information, which he generously gives to the inquirer and Mr. Frank C. Deering of Saco is a well known mine of local history filled with dates and documents. The City Clerk, Mr. Thomas Locke and other individuals have been very helpful and the result is here.

History is not a matter of original work but of patient compilation and even such a fragmentary account as the foregoing is only possible through much searching among often conflicting records. The York Institute is full of interesting documents and other matter, such as plans of the Pool road in 1830 and a plan of Saco and Biddeford streets with homes and names of the occupants in 1835 made by the late James G. Garland.

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